



CITY OF FALLS CHURCH

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, Dec. 13, 2006

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City of Falls Church Expands Open Space for City's 12th Park

FALLS CHURCH, VA. – The City of Falls Church purchased a 0.42-acre area of land on Dec. 11, 2006 in a move to expand and improve accessibility to parkland in the City. The area, located at 215 S. Lee St., is adjacent to the Hamlett/Rees Tract, which is the City's 12th and newest park. The purchase of this property on South Lee Street reflects the City Council's commitment to expand and preserve parkland and open space in the small 2.2-square-mile City.

The Falls Church City Council authorized the purchase of the 0.42-acre area at their Nov. 27, 2006 regular meeting for a purchase price of \$629,000. Consistent with the City's Comprehensive Plan, this strategic open space acquisition will improve access to the Hamlett/Rees Tract and will enable the City to link existing trails. Combined, the 1.2 acres initially owned by the City, the 3 acres purchased by the City in March 2006, and the 0.42-acre area purchased on Dec. 11 bring the total size of the Hamlett/Rees Tract to nearly 5 acres dedicated for new parkland use.

The Recreation & Parks Advisory Board adopted a Master Plan for the Hamlett/Rees Tract on Nov. 1, 2006. The Plan recommends: (1) completing a connection to the Tripps Run Trail; (2) building a nature center to provide formal environmental, wildlife, natural resource, and water quality education; and (3) improving access to the Hamlett/Rees Tract off Lee Street or Rollins Street. The Dec. 11 purchase of the additional 0.42-acre area will help accomplish this third goal to improve access to the park.

The Recreation & Parks Advisory Board will host a public hearing on Feb. 7, 2007 at 8 p.m. in the Falls Church Community Center (223 Little Falls St.) to begin discussions about possible future uses of 215 S. Lee St. Neighbors of the park will receive letters inviting them to the meeting.

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